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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ALEX PADILLA, a Senator from the State of California.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in these challenging times, give our lawmakers the courage and wisdom to keep America a beacon of freedom. Lord, strengthen our Senators, giving them a sense of Your abiding presence. May they honor Your Name in their thoughts, words, and actions. Provide them with compassion for the poor and helpless, and use them to rescue the perishing.

Bless our great land. Use us all to serve one another with humility, following Your example of sacrifice. Lord, fill us with Your hope, that we may become instruments of Your peace.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 14, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable ALEX PADILLA, a Senator from the State of California, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PADILLA thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, on a very sad note, our hearts are with East Lansing today, the campus, the entire community. We are learning more about this terrible shooting. What happened there, on a college campus, is devastating, and it breaks the hearts of Americans everywhere.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Mr. President, now, on the briefing that we just received, we are learning

more and more about these four objects by the hour. U.S. and Canadian forces are working to recover the objects that were shot down. In the briefing, the military and intelligence people outlined their approach to each of the four objects.

What I can say after our briefing is that our defense and intelligence Agencies are focused like a laser on gathering every piece of information about these objects to figure out exactly what is happening.

What we saw over the weekend is that if they see anything that is a threat to America or the American people, they will take appropriate action, and they made clear that Americans are in no physical harm on the ground from any of these objects.

The military and intelligence Agencies are working around the clock to come up with a comprehensive picture of what is happening, and, as they recover more evidence, the picture will be filled in, in a careful, thoughtful but decisive way. The administration is carefully evaluating, as I said, each of the four objects as they happen, and I believe they have taken the right approach on each of the four objects. We still have questions about many issues, but they are making every real effort, and the American people should have a good deal of confidence in our military and intelligence to handle our security.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now, on judges, today, the Senate reaches a major milestone as we confirm the 100th—100th—judicial nominee of the Biden administration. That is 100 judges who will bring balance and excellence to the Federal bench, 100 judges who have expanded the diversity and dynamism of the judiciary, 100 judges who embody the best of our justice system: experience, fairmindedness, and, most of all, fidelity to the Constitution.

Today's nominee, Judge Gina Mendez-Miro, is remarkable in her own right. Judge Mendez-Miro, nominated

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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